

Exam Genius

Ace Your Exams With Exam Genius

UPSC | SSC | RAILWAY | BANKING | RAILWAY | GOVT EXAM

Current Affairs



Ques : _____ Proposes 8-Year Mandatory Retention of Communication Records

ने संचार रिकॉर्ड के 8 साल के अनिवार्य रखरखाव का प्रस्ताव रखा है

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) EPFO / ईपीएफओ
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Answer: Option D

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recommended requiring communication records, including acknowledgements, to be kept for a minimum of eight years for all firms under its regulation.
- In order to maintain accountability and transparency, SEBI-regulated businesses are required to provide certain records to SEBI upon request.
- The action is intended to strengthen investor trust in the securities market, protect investors' interests, improve regulatory compliance, and increase transparency.
- It Ensures that the content of communicated information is verifiable, aiding in the identification of legal breaches.
- Presently, SEBI-regulated entities are required to communicate various types of information to stakeholders. However, only a limited class of these communications are mandated to be preserved.

Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given the Bengaluru-based investment management company Capitalmind Financial Services Private Limited preliminary approval to introduce a new mutual fund.
- SEBI has imposed a ban on Anil Ambani and 24 others from securities market for five years
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), a market regulator, has suggested amending the rules pertaining to debenture trustees (DTs).
- SEBI, which oversees the securities market, has suggested adding a new class of financial instruments to the securities market in order to expand the sustainable financing framework.
- Property Share became the 1st Fractional Ownership Platform (FOP) to receive India's 1st Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trust (SM REIT) license from SEBI under the newly notified SM REIT regulations.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched India's first website for passive funds at the National Stock Exchange (NSE), along with unveiling a comprehensive report on the Indian Capital Markets.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed Mutual Funds (MFs) to value their investment in the Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds issued by banks on Yield-to-Call (YTC) basis.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified November 1, 2024 as the effective date for the implementation of insider trading rules aimed at enhancing the integrity and transparency within asset management companies (AMCs).
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) addressed recent media reports inaccurately claiming that it was considering making the T+0 settlement cycle mandatory for all transactions.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a series
 of near-term measures to prevent speculative trading, such as gambling in
 index derivatives, which include curbing multiple option contract expiries
 and increasing the size of options contracts.

Ques: Jio Financial Services Receives Approval to Raise Foreign Investment Limit to .

जियो फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज को विदेशी निवेश सीमा बढ़ाकर ____ करने की मंजूरी मिली

- (a) 45%
- (b) 46%
- (c) 47%
- (d) 48%
- (e) 49%

Answer : Option E

Explanation:

- The Department of Economic Affairs has given Jio Financial Services Limited permission to increase the maximum amount of foreign investment (including Foreign Portfolio Investors, or FPIs) to 49% of the fully diluted paid-up equity share capital.
- In July 2023, Jio Financial Services separated from its parent firm, Reliance Industries Ltd.
- Currently, 17.55% of the company's shares are held by foreign investors, out of a public float of roughly 53%.
- Jio Financial Services recorded a 6% increase in consolidated net profit for the quarter ending March 2024, coming in at Rs.311 crore as opposed to Rs.294 crore the previous quarter.

About Jio Financial Services Limited:

Founded: 22 July 1999

• Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

MD & CEO: Hitesh Kumar Sethia

Ques : _____ Grants Approval to Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment as a FinTech Self-Regulatory Organization ____ ने उपभोक्ता सशक्तिकरण के लिए फिनटेक एसोसिएशन को फिनटेक स्व- नियामक संगठन के रूप में मंजूरी दी

- (a) NABARD / नाबार्ड
- (b) RBI / आरबीआई
- (c) EPFO / ईपीएफओ
- (d) SEBI / सेबी
- (e) SIDBI / सिडबी

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- The Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) is the first Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO-FT) in the FinTech sector, having been formally registered by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Only FACE's application was accepted by the RBI out of the three that were filed for designation as an SRO-FT.
- With about 50 members, including well-known businesses like Paysense, CASHe, Fibe, CRED, Groww, LoanTap, KreditBee, and KreditBee, FACE accounts for almost 80% of the volume of digital lending activity.
- In order to support "healthy and sustainable development" within the FinTech sector under central bank supervision, the RBI finalized the SRO-FT framework in May 2024.

About SRO-FT

• A Self-Regulatory Organization in FinTech (SRO-FT) must be a registered not-for-profit company.

- SROs serve as a liaison between industry participants and regulatory organizations such as the RBI, advancing compliance and pushing for reforms that are deemed essential.
- It is in charge of establishing rules for privacy, data security, and consumer protection. SROs are also able to look into and deal with members who don't follow rules.
- Under the RBI's supervision, SRO-FTs must conduct their business with integrity, impartiality, and responsibility.

Eligibility:

- Should be set-up as a Not-Profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The applicant must have at least Rs 2 crore within a period of 1 year after recognition as an SRO-FT by RBI, or before commencement of operations as an SRO-FT, whichever is earlier.
- The shareholding of the SRO should be diversified and is not entitled to hold 10% or more of its paid-up share capital, either singly or acting in concert.
- The SRO-FT is not allowed to set-up entities or offices overseas without the prior approval of the RBI.

Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- Due to high NPAs and lender repayment failures, RBI cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) granted to Margdarshak Financial Services Limited (MFSL), its headquarters in Lucknow, UP.
- The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) was introduced by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in Bengaluru, Karnataka, during the Global Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies.
- The schedule for the early redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) issued between May 2017 and May 2020 has been released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The national common mobility cards (NCMCs) and Fastags autoreplenishment have been integrated into the e-mandate framework by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given IndusInd Bank permission to form a wholly owned subsidiary that will solely focus on asset management for mutual funds.
- The RBI90Quiz, an undergraduate college test, has been made available to students by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das received an 'A+' rating for the 2nd consecutive year in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.
- Peer-to-peer (NBFC-P2P) lending platforms run the risk of being branded as investment products by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) due to their inability to offer features like liquidity choices and tenure-linked guaranteed minimum returns.
- According to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study, capital expenditure (capex) in the private sector is expected to increase from Rs.1.59 trillion in FY24 to Rs.2.45 trillion in FY25.
- In order to improve compliance culture and offer a platform for consultation while formulating policy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for the recognition of self-regulatory organizations (SROs) in the financial markets.
- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS) saw a 24.39% year-over-year decline in outward remittances to \$6.9 billion in Q1 FY25 from \$9.1 billion in the same time the previous year.
- Top 100 Largest Central Bank Rankings by Total Assets in the World in 2024 Published by Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ranked 12th globally

About RBI:

• Established : 1 April 1935

• Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

• Governor : Shaktikanta Das

• Deputy governors : Swaminathan Janakiraman , M. Rajeshwar Rao,

Michael Patra and T. Rabi Shankar

Ques: Moody's Ratings has raised its real GDP growth projections for India, forecasting a robust _____ percent growth for the fiscal year 2024 मूडीज रेटिंग्स ने भारत के लिए अपने वास्तविक जीडीपी विकास अनुमान को बढ़ा दिया है, वित्तीय वर्ष 2024 के लिए मजबूत _____ प्रतिशत वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया है।

- (a) 7.1%
- (b) 7.2%
- (c) 7.3%
- (d) 7.4%
- (e) 7.5%

Answer : Option B

Explanation:

- Moody's Ratings has raised its real GDP growth projections for India, forecasting a robust 7.2 percent growth for the fiscal year 2024, up from a previous estimate of 6.8 percent.
- The New York-based global rating agency has also raised its growth projections to 6.6 percent for 2025, up from 6.4 percent.
- The report attributes these revised projections to strong, broad-based growth, driven by resilient private consumption and improved business conditions.

Updated GDP List

- Goldman Sachs 6.7% (CY24), 6.4% (CY24)
- Deloitte 7 7.2% (FY25)
- India Ratings 7.5% (FY25)
- FICCI 7% (FY25)
- ADB 7% (FY25), 7.2%(FY26)
- IMF 7% (FY25), 6.5% (FY26)
- NCAER 7.5% (FY25)
- S&P 6.8% (FY25), 6.9% (FY26), 7% (FY27)

Ques : Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme launched in which year ? कृषि अवसंरचना निधि (एआईएफ) योजना किस वर्ष श्रू की गई?

- (a) 2019
- (b) 2020
- (c) 2021
- (d) 2022
- (e) 2023

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

• In an effort to improve the nation's farm-related infrastructure, the government has broadened the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) program to increase its value.

About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme:

- Through interest subsidy and financial support, the initiative will offer a medium- to long-term debt financing facility for investments in feasible projects for community farming assets and post-harvest management infrastructure.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 2020.
- All loans up to a limit of 2 crores under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of 7 years.
- Up to 25 projects may be submitted by an applicant in various places, and each project qualifies for a loan of up to 2 crore under the initiative.
- This limitation of 25 projects will not apply to state agencies, cooperatives, national and state federations of cooperatives, FPOs, federations of FPOs, SHGs, and federations of SHGs.

 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Farmers, Self Help Group (SHG), Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs and Startups, Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public-Private Partnership Projects – all are eligible for this scheme.

Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)
 Launched in 2023.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign on PMJANMAN mission, to raise awareness and ensure 100% saturation of Government Schemes. Launched by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs.
- 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme under Department of Science and Technology, aim is to foster research, innovation, and technology development in addition to increasing capacity in science and technology
- Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana (MBPAY) Launched by Himachal Pradesh (HP) Chief Minister(CM) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu To provide nutritious food to children in government-run schools.
- Odisha state government has launched the Subhadra scheme under which Rs.50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60
- Scooters manufactured by Ola Electric, model numbers S1 X 3 kWh and S1 X 4 kWh, have been certified as complying with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the automotive and auto component industries.
- The Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana was started by the Department of Post, which is part of the Union Ministry of Communication, to encourage student research and scholarship in stamps throughout the nation.
- The Unified Pension System (UPS) for its employees has been approved by the Union Cabinet. The current National Pension System (NPS) will be replaced with the new plan Unified Pension System (UPS).

Ques: Which ministry has mandated the registration of exotic pets listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Act on PARIVESH 2.0? किस मंत्रालय ने पर्यावरण 2.0 पर वन्यजीव अधिनियम की अनुसूची IV के तहत सूचीबद्ध विदेशी पालतू जानवरों के पंजीकरण को अनिवार्य कर दिया है?

- (a) Union Ministry of Home Affairs / केंद्रीय गह मंत्रालय
- (b) Union Ministry of Education / केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय
- (c) Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change / केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन और जलवाय् परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
- (d) Union Ministry of of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises / केंद्रीय सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय
- (e) Union Ministry of Steel / केंद्रीय इस्पात मंत्रालय

Answer: Option C

- Within six months, state wildlife departments must register exotic pets included in Schedule IV of the Wildlife Act with the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through the PARIVESH 2.0 site.
- Through a Gazette Notification dated February 28, 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Government of India, published the Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024 under Section 49 M.
- The six-month period would expire on 28th August 2024.
- Animals or plants classified as exotic species are those that have been transported from their native environment to a new area, frequently as a result of human activity.

 The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) created PARIVESH 2.0, a web-based workflow program, for the online filing and tracking of applications pertaining to clearances for coastal regulating zones, wildlife, forests, and the environment.

Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals

- The Union Ministry of Power has introduced three new online platforms, JAL VIDYUT DPR, DRIPS, and PROMPT developed by Central Electricity Authority.
- The government of India has released an updated version of the Flood Watch India 2.0 App in an effort to enhance the nation's flood forecasting and flood control capabilities.
- Upasthiti (attendance) Portal: Hemant Soren, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, launched to ensure daily attendance of doctors, para-medical staff and other employees under the health department.
- Version 4.0 of Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile app: Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy launched to improve the quality of price data
- e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti and e-Summon apps: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has launched for the three new criminal laws
- District App: Zomato has launched a new app to consolidate various 'going-out' services such as dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping etc.
- National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal: Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched, Rs 100 crore in stipends has been disbursed to young graduates and diploma holders through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Amrit Brikshya Andolan 2.0 App: Launched by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The app enables individuals to register or renew their participation in the tree-planting campaign.
- E-Upahaar Portal : Rashtrapati Bhavan will auction selected gift items, presented to the President and former Presidents on various occasions, through an online portal called E-Upahaar.
- Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App: Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at Geological Survey of India (GSI) Kolkata

Ques : Samanatham Tank is to be converted into bird sanctuary. It is located in which state?

समनाथम टैंक को पक्षी अभयारण्य में परिवर्तित किया जाएगा। यह किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- (a) Maharashtra / महाराष्ट्र
- (b) Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाड्
- (c) Gujarat / गुजरात
- (d) Andhra Pradesh / आंध्र प्रदेश
- (e) Telangana / तेलंगाना

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

- The Tamil Nadu Forest Department plans to turn the Samanatham Tank in the Madurai district into a bird sanctuary, as per the proposals of the Madurai Nature Cultural Foundation.
- Anhinga Melanogaster, Mycteria Leucocephala, Threskiornis Melanocephalus, Pelecanus Philippensis, Limosa Lapponica, Sterna Aurantia, and Pandion Haliaetus are among the 300 uncommon species of birds that Samanatham Tank documented.
- Tamil Nadu has four tiger reserves, fifteen wildlife sanctuaries, and seventeen bird sanctuaries.

About Tamil Nadu:

- Formation 26 January 1950
- Capital Chennai
- Chief Minister M K Stalin
- Governor R N Ravi

Ques: Which country will host the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024?

कौन सा देश आठवीं प्रुष एशियाई हॉकी चैंपियंस ट्रॉफी 2024 की मेजबानी करेगा?

- (a) Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका
- (b) Nepal / नेपाल
- (c) Bhutan / भूटान
- (d) India / भारत
- (e) Bangladesh / बांग्लादेश

Answer: Option D

- Hockey India has revealed their updated national men's hockey team for the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy in 2024, which will be captained by Harmanpreet Singh.
- From September 8–17, 2024, Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, will host the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.
- The Indian team will be led by Harmanpreet Singh, the captain of the team and the top goal scorer in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. The team's vice-captain is midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad.
- Having won the 7th edition of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai in 2023, India is the reigning champion.
- The Indian hockey team will be playing without its renowned goalie, PR Sreejesh, for the first time since his retirement following the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.
- China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Pakistan are participating in the 8th edition

 Asian Hockey Federation is the governing body of hockey in Asia and is affiliated with the International Hockey Federation (FIH). Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Indian wrestler Ronak Dahiya won Bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman 110 kilograms event at Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan.
- Tanvi Patri, an Odisha girl of 14 years old, defeated Vietnamese player Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen in the final to win the Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024 women's singles title.
- Max Verstappen was defeated by Lando Norris at the Zandvoort Dutch Grand Prix
- India received the silver medal at the Asian Surfing Championship 2024, which was held in Thulusdhoo, Maldives, in the Maruhaba Cup, a prominent team event.
- Mother-of-two Diana Pundole, a Pune-based teacher, broke over the glass ceiling when she won the saloon class national championship at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024, which was held in Chennai.
- The Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was awarded the 23th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award at a ceremony held in Mumbai.
- Para-athletes Sumit Antil, a gold medallist at the Tokyo Paralympic Games, and Bhagyashri Jadhav, a shot putter, have been selected by the Paralympic Committee of India to represent their country in the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2024 instead of Bangladesh.
- Satya Prakash Sangwan, vice president of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), has been named chef de mission for the Indian delegation to the 2018 Paralympic Games in Paris.
- The 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO), which was held in Beijing, China. Indian team has won two silver, three gold, and one bronze medal.
- Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will be the new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team.
- Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months by the Badminton World Federation for violating anti-doping rules.

Ques : Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board? रेलवे बोर्ड के नए अध्यक्ष और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) के रूप में किसे नियुक्त किया गया है?

- (a) Sujai Raina / सुजाई रैना
- (b) Dinesh Dasa / दिनेश दासा
- (c) Vasudha Gupta / वसुधा गुप्ता
- (d) Manoj Soni / मनोज सोनी
- (e) Satish Kumar / सतीश कुमार

Answer: Option E

- The Railway Board has named Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) officer Satish Kumar as its chairman and chief executive officer (CEO).
- On September 1, Kumar is expected to take over as the board's CEO and chairperson, succeeding Jaya Varma Sinha, who is set to retire on August 31.
- He is the first member of the Dalit or Scheduled Caste community to be chosen for this role, making his appointment historic.
- The Railway Board has recognized Kumar, a renowned officer from the 1986 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME), for his outstanding services to Indian Railways throughout the course of a long career spanning more than 34 years.

Recent Appointment in different departments:

- Arun Agarwal : Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) board
- Laurent Freixe : Nestle CEO (Replace Mark Schneider)
- Jay Shah: Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- Sanjiv Ranjan : Secretary General (SG) of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat in Mauritius
- M Suresh: additional charge as Chairman of AAI
- Ashok Kumar Singh : Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)
- Govind Mohan: Secretary of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (Home Secretary)
- Harish Dudani : Member in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)
- Amit Singh Negi: Additional secretary in the Prime Minister's Office
- Grinson George: Director of ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)
- Robert "Kelly" Ortberg : CEO of Boeing
- Preeti Sudan : Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
- Mohsin Naqvi : President of the Asian Cricket Council
- Cmde D.K. Murali : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)
- Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur : festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
- Ajinkya Naik: youngest president of the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)
- Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak : President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)
- Rajendra Prasad Goyal : Additional charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the NHPC Limited
- Cmde D.K. Murali : Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL)
- Sumant Sinha: Co-Chair of Global CEO Climate Leaders Alliance
- Deepa Malik : sub-regional representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)
- Roberta Metsola : President of the European Parliament
- Vikram Misri : 35th Foreign Secretary
- Justice Aalia Neelum : Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan

Ques: The Spices Board, under which Ministry, has launched a new scheme SPICED?

किस मंत्रालय के तहत मसाला बोर्ड ने एक नई योजना SPICED शुरू की है?

- (a) Union Ministry of Home Affairs / केंद्र य गह मंत्रालय
- (b) Union Ministry of Education / केंद्र य सशाि मंत्रालय
- (c) Union Ministry of Finance / केंद्र य ववत्त मंत्रालय
- (d) Union Ministry of of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises / केंद्रीय सूक्ष्म, लघ् और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय
- (e) Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry / केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय

Answer: Option E

- A new program called "Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED)" has been introduced by the Spices Board, which is part of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Improving value addition, stimulating innovation, and advancing sustainability in the spice industry are its main goals.
- Approved with a budget of ②422.30 crore, the project is set to launch in the fiscal year 2025–2026.
- The promotion of Geographical Indication (GI) spices, Mission Value Addition, Mission Clean and Safe Spices, and entrepreneurial support via Spice Incubation Centers are among the major components of the SPICED program.
- The focus will be on improving post-harvest practices, ensuring an exportable surplus of spices that meet global food safety and quality standards.

Ques: India has placed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 assault rifles from which country?

भारत ने किस देश से 73,000 SIG716 असॉल्ट राइफलों का दोबारा ऑर्डर दिया है?

- (a) Australia / ऑस्ट्रेलिया
- (b) Russia / रूस
- (c) Japan / जापान
- (d) USA / यूएसए
- (e) China / चीन

Answer: Option D

- India has reordered 73,000 SIG716 assault weapons from SiG Sauer Inc., a US company.
- This procurement supplements the 72,400 SIG716 rifles that were previously purchased in February 2019.
- In the midst of current military tensions, particularly along the eastern Ladakh area, the rifles are meant for army battalions stationed along the borders with China and Pakistan.
- The Army received 66,400 of these rifles, followed by the Air Force with 4,000 and the Navy with 2,000.
- The SIG716 Patrol rifles are 62x51mm caliber with an effective 'kill' range of 500 meters.
- The rifles are expected to be delivered within 18 months, by the end of 2025.
- The rifle has a total length of 34.39 inches and a barrel length of 15.98 inches. Its total weight is 3.58 kg.

Recent News Headlines related to Defence

- Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea, recently revealed a brand-new kind of "suicide drone." These drones are made to behave like guided missiles.
- India launched its first reusable hybrid rocket, named RHUMI-1. Space Zone India, a start-up based in Tamil Nadu, worked with the Martin Group to develop the rocket. The rocket was launched from Chennai, India's Thiruvidandhai.
- Launched from SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carried the satellite Tanager-1, which was created by an alliance of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- The Shaheen-II surface-to-surface ballistic missile was successfully launched into training by the Pakistani military lately.
- Swadeshi (indigenous) Kamikaze Drones are do-or-die Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) powered by in-house engines that can propel them up to 1,000 kilometers (km) in the air. These drones were recently introduced by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).
- Elon Musk's Starlink, SpaceX's satellite division, has been given permission by Sri Lanka's telecoms authority to offer satellite internet services there.
- The Coast Guard's new Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) was officially opened in Chennai by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- The Indian Navy (IN) has authorized Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to construct six advanced submarines in partnership with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) under the 'Project 75 India (P75I)' initiative
- China intends to compete with SpaceX's Starlink network by launching its first set of internet satellites.
- Indian Air Force has given its green signal for the production of 200 Astra mark-1 (Mk-1) missiles for its Su-30 MKI and the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- India has announced the selection of two astronauts, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, for the upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Ques: India's Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal won the gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the women's _____ Air Rifle competition at the Paris Paralympics 2024.

भारत की अवनि लेखारा और मोना अग्रवाल ने पेरिस पैरालिंपिक 2024 में महिलाओं की ______ एयर राइफल प्रतियोगिता में क्रमशः स्वर्ण और कांस्य पदक जीते।

- (a) 10m
- (b) 20m
- (c) 30m
- (d) 50m
- (e) 100m

Answer: Option A

- In the women's 10m Air Rifle competition, Indian competitors Avani Lekhara and Mona Agarwal took home the gold and bronze medals, respectively.
- On her debut at the Games, Mona took home the nation's first medal from the Paris Paralympics.
- Avani finished first by breaking her own record from the Tokyo Games. She set a new Paralympic record in the category with her final score of 249.7. Her prior best was 249.6 from the Paralympics in Tokyo.
- With a score of 234.9 in the men's 10-meter Air Pistol, Manish Narwal won the silver medal. After leading after the first round of shots in stage 2, the 22-year-old—who won gold in the Mixed 50-meter Pistol event at the Tokyo Paralympics—lost his advantage and finished second in the final.
- In the women's 100-meter sprint, Preeti Pal finished third in the final with a personal best time of 14.21 seconds, earning her bronze.

Ques : Who Distributes Certificates to 11 Lakh New 'Lakhpati Didis' ? 11 लाख नई 'लखपति दीदियों' को प्रमाण पत्र कौन वितरित करता है?

- (a) Narendra Modi / नरेंद्र मोदी
- (b) Amit Shah / अमित शाह
- (c) Rajnath Singh / राजनाथ सिंह
- (d) Droupadi Murmu / द्रौपदी मुर्मु
- (e) Jagdeep Dhankhar / जगदीप धनखड़

Answer: Option A

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis in a function organised at Jalgaon in Maharashtra
- These Lakhpati didis whose number is more than one crore in the country, are earning more than one lakh rupees per year.
- During the program, the Prime Minister released a revolving fund Community Investment Fund of 2,500 crore rupees, expected to benefit about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The Prime Minister also released a bank loan of 5,000 crore rupees, which will benefit 25.8 lakh members of two lakh 35 thousand 400 SHGs.

IMPORTANT ONE – LINER Current Affairs

- The CEO and founder of Telegram, Pavel Durov, was taken into custody in Paris on suspicion of using his messaging app for illegal purposes, such as distributing content that promotes child sex abuse and trafficking in drugs.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of 21.25 lakh on The Valsad Mahila Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Valsad, Gujarat
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed that Qualified Stock Brokers (QSBs) offer a UPI-based block mechanism for trading in the secondary market, similar to the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) facility used in the primary market.
- Ecommerce major Amazon India has launched its artificial intelligence (AI)powered shopping assistant 'Rufus' in India.
- YES Bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Newtap Finance Private Limited to provide personalised financing solutions for creditworthy individuals on payments platform CRED.
- Renowned musician Uttam Singh and playback singer K S Chithra received Lata Mangeshkar Award given by Madhya Pradesh government.
- Apple Appoints Kevan Parekh as New CFO Ahead of Key Product Launch. He replaced Luca Maestri.
- Bharti Airtel Announces Partnership with Apple to to offer exclusive Apple
 Music and Apple TV+ deals to customers in India later this year.

महत्वपूर्ण एक-पंक्ति करंट अफेयर्स

- टेलीग्राम के सीईओ और संस्थापक, पावेल ड्यूरोव को अपने मैसेजिंग ऐप का उपयोग अवैध उद्देश्यों के लिए करने के संदेह में पेरिस में हिरासत में लिया गया था, जैसे कि बाल यौन शोषण और नशीली दवाओं की तस्करी को बढ़ावा देने वाली सामग्री वितरित करना।
- भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI) ने द वलसाड महिला नागरिक सहकारी बैंक लिमिटेड,
 वलसाड, गुजरात पर Rs.1.25 लाख का मौद्रिक जुर्माना लगाया है।
- भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) ने प्रस्ताव दिया है कि योग्य स्टॉक ब्रोकर (क्यूएसबी) द्वितीयक बाजार में व्यापार के लिए एक यूपीआई-आधारित ब्लॉक तंत्र की पेशकश करते हैं, जो प्राथमिक बाजार में उपयोग की जाने वाली ब्लॉक्ड अमाउंट द्वारा समर्थित एप्लिकेशन (एएसबीए) स्विधा के समान है।
- ईकॉमर्स प्रमुख अमेज़ॅन इंडिया ने भारत में अपना कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई) संचालित
 शॉपिंग सहायक 'रूफस' लॉन्च किया है।
- यस बैंक ने भुगतान प्लेटफॉर्म CRED पर क्रेडिट योग्य व्यक्तियों के लिए व्यक्तिगत
 वित्तपोषण समाधान प्रदान करने के लिए न्यूटैप फाइनेंस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के साथ
 सह-उधार साझेदारी में प्रवेश किया है।
- प्रसिद्ध संगीतकार उत्तम सिंह और पार्श्व गायिका के एस चित्रा को मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा दिया गया लता मंगेशकर प्रस्कार मिला।
- Apple ने प्रमुख उत्पाद लॉन्च से पहले केवन पारेख को नया CFO नियुक्त किया।
 उन्होंने ल्का मेस्त्री का स्थान लिया।
- भारती एयरटेल ने इस साल के अंत में भारत में ग्राहकों को विशेष ऐप्पल म्यूज़िक और ऐप्पल टीवी+ डील की पेशकश करने के लिए ऐप्पल के साथ साझेदारी की घोषणा की।